

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a computer system for providing secondhand article information, comprising:

a usage data collection step in which usage data showing facts relating to usage of a plurality of articles are collected, said collected usage data including:

(a) usage field data for said each article indicating a usage field in which said each article is used, and

(b) operating data for each said article indicating operating hours of said each article used in said usage field, said usage field being selected from among a plurality of usage fields which differ from each other as to a workload placed on an article when said plurality of articles has been used;

a total operating hours determining step in which total operating hours by usage field for said each article are determined based on the usage field data and the operating data for said each article included in the usage data;

a usage history storage step in which collected usage data are stored as usage history in a data base; and

a usage history provision step in which the usage history stored in said data base and the total operating hours by usage field of an article of a selected article, stored in said data base and which is selected by a customer from among said plurality of articles, [[is]] are provided to the customer via a network, while said plurality of articles is being put up for sale as secondhand

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articles;

~~a usage data recollecting step in which said usage data are recollected when said plurality of articles is used while said plurality of articles is being put up for sale as secondhand articles;~~

~~a usage data updating step in which the usage history of said plurality of articles stored in said data base are updated based on recollected usage data; and~~

~~an updated usage history provision step in which the updated usage history of said selected article stored in said data base is provided to the customer via the network, while said usage history of said plurality of articles are updated,~~

~~wherein said usage data comprise operation data that show amounts of work done by said plurality of articles.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said usage data collection step includes a step for collecting usage data for said plurality of articles by communicating with said plurality of articles from a remote location away from said plurality of articles.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

 a service data collection step in which service data that show facts relating to service of said plurality of articles are collected, when said plurality of articles has been serviced;

 a service history storage step in which collected service data are stored as service history in said data base; and

 a service history provision step in which the service history for said selected article stored

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in said data base is provided to the customer via said network, when said plurality of articles is being put up for sale as secondhand articles.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said usage data collection step, said usage history storage step, and said usage history provision step are conducted simultaneously in parallel so that said plurality of articles still in use can be put up for sale as secondhand articles.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said usage data includes photographic data showing actual images of said plurality of articles.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 1 and 3, further comprising a download step of downloading the usage history or service history for said plurality of articles, which are stored in said data base, to a terminal used by said customer via the network.

8-18. (Cancelled)

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19. (Currently Amended) A computer system for providing information about secondhand articles, comprising:

usage data collection means for collecting usage data that show facts relating usage of a plurality of articles, said usage data including:

(a) usage field data for each said article indicating a usage field, in which said each article is used, and

(b) operating data for each said article indicating operating hours of said each article used in said usage fields, said usage field being selected from among a plurality of usage fields which differ from each other as to a workload placed on an article when said plurality of articles has been used;

a total operating hours determining means for determining total operating hours by usage field for said each article based on the usage field data for said each article and the operating data included in the usage data;

a data base;

usage history storage means for storing collected usage data as usage history on said data base;

usage history provision means for providing the usage history stored in said data base and the total operating hours by usage field for an article for a selected article, stored in said data base and which is selected by a customer from among said plurality of articles [[,]] to the customer via a network, while said plurality of articles is being put up for sale as secondhand articles; and

usage data updating means for updating the usage history of said plurality of articles

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~~stored on said data base based on the collected usage data; wherein,~~

~~said usage data collecting means recollects said usage data of said plurality of articles when said plurality of articles is used while said plurality of articles is being put up for sale as secondhand articles;~~

~~said usage data updating means updates the usage history of said plurality of articles stored in said data base; and~~

~~said usage history provision means provides the customer via the network with the updated usage history of said selected article stored in said data base,~~

~~wherein said usage data comprise operation data that show amounts of work done by said plurality of articles.~~

20. (Currently Amended): The system according to claim 19, further comprising:

service data collection means for collecting service data that show facts relating to service of the plurality of articles when said plurality of articles has been serviced;

service history storage means for storing collected service data as service history on said data base; and

service history provision means for providing the service history for said selected article stored in said data base to the customer via the network when said plurality of articles is being put up for sale as secondhand articles.

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21. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

 a usage data recollecting step in which, when said article is used while said article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article, said usage data are recollected;

 a total operating hours updating step in which the total operating hours by usage field are updated based on the usage field data and the operating data included in the recollected usage data;

 a usage data updating step in which the usage history of said articles stored in said data base are updated based on the recollected usage data; and

 an updated usage history provision step in which the updated usage history stored in said data base and the updated total operating hours by usage field of the selected article are provided to the customer via the network.

22. (New) A method performed by a computer system for providing secondhand article information, comprising:

 a usage data collection step in which usage data showing facts relating to usage of a plurality of articles are collected, said collected usage data including attachment data for said each article indicating an attachment used by said each article and operating data indicating operating hours of said each article for respective attachments;

 a total operating hours determining step in which total operating hours by attachment are determined based on the attachment data and the operating data included in the usage data;

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a usage history storage step in which the collected usage data are stored as usage history in a data base; and

a usage history provision step in which the usage history stored in said data base and the total operating hours by attachment of an article which is selected by a customer, are provided to the customer via a network, while said plurality of articles are being put up for sale as secondhand articles.

23. (New) The method according to claim 22, further comprising:

a usage data recollecting step in which, when said article is used while said article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article, said usage data are recollected;

a total operating hours updating step in which the total operating hours by attachment are updated based on the attachment data and the operating data included in the recollected usage data;

a usage data updating step in which the usage history of said articles stored in said data base are updated based on the recollected usage data; and

an updated usage history provision step in which, the updated usage history stored in said data base and the updated total operating hours by attachment of the selected article, are provided to the customer via the network.

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24. (New) The computer system according to claim 19, further comprising:

usage data updating means for updating the usage history of said plurality of articles stored on said data base based on the collected usage data; and

total operating hours updating means for updating the total operating hours by usage field; wherein,

said usage data collecting means recollects said usage data of said plurality of articles when said plurality of articles is used while said plurality of articles is being put up for sale as secondhand articles;

said usage data updating means updates the usage history of said plurality of articles stored in said data base;

said total operating hours updating means update the total operating hours by usage field based on the usage field data and the operating data included in the recollected usage data; and

said usage history provision means provides the customer via the network with the updated usage history of said article stored in said data base and the updated total operating hours by usage field.

25. (New) A computer system for providing information about secondhand articles, comprising:

usage data collecting means for collecting usage data that show facts relating to usage of a plurality of articles, including attachment data for each article indicating an attachment used by said each article and operating data indicating operating hours of said each article for respective attachments;

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total operating hours determining means for determining total operating hours by attachment for said each article based on the attachment data for said each article and the operating data for said each article included in the usage data;

a data base;

usage history storage means that stores the collected usage data as usage history on said data base; and

usage history provision means for providing the usage history stored in said data base and the total operating hours by attachment for an article which is selected by a customer from among said plurality of articles, to the customer via a network, while said plurality of articles are being put up for sale as secondhand articles.

26. (New) The computer system according to claim 25, further comprising:

usage data updating means for updating the usage history of said plurality of articles stored on said data base based on the collected usage data; and

total operating hours updating means for updating the total operating hours by attachment; wherein,

said usage data collecting means recollects said usage data of said plurality of articles when said plurality of articles is used while said plurality of articles is being put up for sale as secondhand articles;

said usage data updating means updates the usage history of said plurality of articles stored in said data base;

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said total operating hours updating means update the total operating hours by attachment based on the attachment data and the operating data included in the recollected usage data; and

said usage history provision means provides the customer via the network with the updated usage history of said article stored in said data base and the updated total operating hours by attachment.